



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Kristi Jones  
**FROM:** William C. McKinney  
**SUBJECT:** Event Brief and Run of Show  
**COPY:** Carol Young, Eric Wilson

**EVENT DATE:** Fri.-Sat., 8-9 Dec. 2017.

**GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE TIME:** 6:00PM, Fri. – 1:00 PM, Sat.

**EVENT DETAILS**

Name of Event:	Winter Meeting
Event Begin & End Time:	Friday 6:00pm – Saturday 1:00pm* <sup>1</sup>
Location:	Barn at Antler Hill/Inn at Biltmore Estate. Asheville, NC
Event Attire?	Business (Fri.), Business Casual (Sat.)
Host Organization or Individual?	North Carolina Council for Management and Development
Invited by:	Gerald Roach
On-site contact:	Gerald Roach: 919/632. [REDACTED]
Governor's Staff Attending:	Ken Eudy, Drew Christy, William McKinney
Will the Governor speak / how long and at what time?	Yes (Fri. 5-10 min.; Sat. 10-15 min. + discussion)
Requested Speaking Topic:	Overview of the Governor's perspective on the state's challenges and opportunities
Who will introduce the Governor?	Charlie Owen
Who else is speaking?	Mark Sweeney (Site Selection Consultant), Charlie Perusse, Napoleon Wallace
Podium?	No

<sup>1</sup> Understand the Governor has a commitment beginning at 1:00pm at the Western Residence.

Microphone?	No
Stage?	No
Estimated Attendees?	Fri.: 40, Sat.: 25
Audience Description?	NC Business Community Leaders
VIPs or Elected Officials Attending?	No
Will press be allowed at event?	No

## BACKGROUND

This is the Winter meeting of this North Carolina Council on Management and Development. This meeting is the group's second meeting this year. In 2018, the group is expected to invite you to Charlotte for a mid-March meeting as well.

## TIMETABLE & RUN OF SHOW

See Agenda sent to office earlier this week.

## SUGGESTED TOPICS /TALKING POINTS

### I. Friday

#### 1. Welcoming Remarks

- Thank you Charlie Owen for the kind introduction; appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for North Carolina and welcome your participation with this group.
- Appreciate this group traveling to Asheville during a busy time of year: holiday parties, family commitments, and your own business's end-of-year obligations. That you are here speaks to your belief in the continued potential of our state.
- I am looking forward to talking with you all: updating you to some of the issues on which I have been working on, and hearing from you about your own concerns and assessments.

- We will have more time to talk tomorrow, and an excellent program that will provide us with some unique perspectives on where we are as a state.
- For now though, I want to remind you that since I took office, I have been focused on making North Carolina a better educated and healthier state where people have more money in their pockets so that they have an opportunity to build a more abundant and purposeful life.
- That mission statement remains critical to me as we look to significant economic development projects, health care overhauls, promoting innovations and advancements in our public schools and universities.
- Thank you again for being here, and now let us briefly say a blessing before beginning our supper. After the program, I hope we can continue some of the conversations we have had today and pick things up tomorrow.

## **II. Saturday**

### **A. Introduction**

1. I wanted to talk to you briefly as a follow up to our meeting in October, both to provide an update as to some of the issues we discussed, particularly as it relates to workforce and innovation, but I also want to spend some time identifying some concerns I have about the fiscal health of the state.
2. You will hear more about that from Charlie Perusse, my budget director, and I would like to speak with you more about the budget at that time. I also want to provide this overview of some of the issues on which I am spending significant time to get your feedback. Some of these issues you may hear from me again in the future. Others are particularly important to the administration now, but may well have receded by the time we meet in March.

## B. Big Picture Strategic Issues

1. Workforce: I appreciated our discussion in October about the need for a trained, ready, and employable workforce. On workforce, I am continuing to (i) look at ways to push our community college system to train workers in high demand areas, (ii) examine ways to alleviate financial pressures that may prevent employees from pursuing such training, and (iii) expand the capability of local workforce boards and the NC Works Commission.
2. Education: Since we last met, I have created a commission focused on looking at ways to resolve the Leandro Supreme Court series of cases identifying the Constitutional requirement for children to have a basic and sound education. This Commission, led by Brad Wilson, will take a hard look at the requirements students need to ensure a quality education: principal retention, teacher pipeline, school facilities, and early childhood education.
3. State's Fiscal Affairs: As Charlie Perusse will go into greater detail later this morning, the state's population is growing, and the state will be compelled to think creatively as to how North Carolina's needs and obligations will be met through recent shifts in the tax code.

Beyond that, additional revenue reductions or tax cuts will make it next to impossible to breathe life into the workforce and education programs the state, frankly, needs.

4. Health Care: Two weeks ago, I directed Mandy Cohen, my Health and Human Services Secretary, to submit the legally required waivers to continue on the legislatively required Medicaid reform path, but also to begin the process, subject to legislative approval, to increase access to health care and Medicaid in particular.

## C. Particular Actions/Issues

1. Hometown Strong: Prior Gibson has joined the administration to spearhead my rural initiative. Many of you may know Prior, and I am confident he understands not only the needs of Rural North Carolina.
2. Atlantic Coast Pipeline: Conversations between the Pipeline and my administration continue. They have been welcomed and helpful, but I also must make sure that the Pipeline, and its effects, are in the best interest of the State.
3. Economic Development: (i) Press reporting states that North Carolina is competitive in its ability to recruit an automotive manufacturer like Toyota. (ii) I have also given interviews nationally to promote North Carolina's bid for Amazon's HQ2. Press reports have also identified North Carolina as being a favorable location for the new headquarters project.
4. Working diligently to express my concern about disrupting how the State's judges are elected and appointed. I have strong concerns that the General Assembly will take up legislation placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot in May to give the legislature the ability to increase their control over the judiciary. I feel that this proposal strikes at the core of our democratic system of checks and balances.
5. During a recent meeting to discuss legislative selection of judges with the Business Court, they mentioned to me that they are interested in looking at ways to promote non-North Carolinians to come to North Carolina to arbitrate or mediate here. I am interested in seeing how all of the state's assets can be put to their highest and best uses, and intrigued by the idea that the business court could be used to make North Carolina a premier legal destination for dispute
6. Using North Carolina's Business Courts as a litigation destination. Recent lunch with

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